

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
Transcriber's Office

April 6, 1999

LB 78

RECESS

SENATOR CUDABACK PRESIDING

SENATOR CUDABACK: We are ready to begin the afternoon senator...session. Will senators please check in. Would members please report to the Chambers so we can start the afternoon session, please? Record, Mr. Clerk. Items for the record, Mr. Clerk.

CLERK: Mr. President, I do have a quorum present and I have one item. I have a Reference report referring certain gubernatorial appointments to appropriate Standing Committee for confirmation hearing. That's all that I had, Mr. President. (See pages 1330-1331 of the Legislative Journal.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Thank you. Next agenda item.

CLERK: Mr. President, the next bill, LB 78, a bill originally introduced by Senator Bruning. (Title read.) Bill was introduced on January 7, referred to Urban Affairs, advanced to General File. There are committee amendments, Mr. President. (AM0614, Legislative Journal page 843.)

SENATOR CUDABACK: Senator Bruning, you're recognized to open on LB 78.

SENATOR BRUNING: Thank you, Mr. President, members of the body. This is...LB 78 is the incarnation of gas wars '99, which are no longer gas wars. This is love fest '99. We have worked out a compromise and I will go through what the compromise entails and the amendment we have drafted that takes care of that compromise. Essentially, LB 78 has its genesis in a dispute along the service area boundaries of the Metropolitan Utilities District in Douglas and Sarpy Counties. Existing law allows MUD to set its own boundaries and to provide natural gas service anywhere within its service area. Because of the natural growth